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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for life's blessings. We praise You for calling us Your people and for choosing us to give You glory. We are grateful for the wonderful things You do for us: for life and health, for friends and family, for this splendid day. Thank You for blessings that lift our souls: worship and music, knowledge and prayer, meditation and praise. Lord, thank You for the blessings of this legislative branch: Senators and staffers, caring and courage, laws and deliberations. Today, cleanse our hearts and lives and guide us by Your Spirit.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a

Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4899, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. At approximately 4:45 p.m., the Senate will resume the motions with respect to H.R. 4173, the Wall Street reform legislation. It is in order that Senator BROWNBACK make a motion to instruct conferees with respect to auto dealers and Senator HUTCHISON with respect to proprietary trading. Each motion will have 20 minutes of debate prior to a vote. At approximately 5:30, the Senate will proceed to two consecutive votes in relation to the Brownback and Hutchison motions to instruct.

GULF OILSPILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it has been nearly 5 weeks since oil started spew-

ing into the Gulf of Mexico and onto our shores. Millions of gallons, miles of polluted coastline, and more than a month later, the consequences of our oil addiction are as clear as the gulf's waters once were.

It has also become clear that the companies responsible for this spill were poorly prepared for this possibility. There is no question that they failed to adequately invest in the technology necessary to respond to such a catastrophe. Days have turned into weeks, while the experts continue to experiment with ways to stop the spill. We still don't know when the end will come so cleanup can finally begin.

Every year, these companies rake in record profits. Then they turn and spend that money on trying to find more oil. It is time they also find safer ways to drill for it and handle it. The five top oil companies have made \$¾ trillion in profits—\$750 billion—over the past decade, but the amount they have invested in cleanup technologies is negligible.

They have invested embarrassingly little in alternative fuels that would make us more secure both at home and abroad. I don't mind oil companies or any other company making money, but these multibillion-dollar corporations are getting rich at the expense of our national security, our economy, and our environment. Every day we pay unfriendly regimes to feed our oil addiction is a day we are less safe.

Everyone who stands in the way of diversifying our economy makes it harder for businesses to recover, for the unemployed to find work, and for our communities to prosper. And every time we see precious water and wildlife coated in crude oil, the threat to our environment is impossible to ignore. Pelicans were on the endangered species list. We took them off. Now, by the hundreds, they are dying. Where they do their hatching is soaked in oil. We may lose our pelicans as a result of BP.

Weaning ourselves off oil is a hard fact for us to face. We consume more

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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